

Two pre-occupied names in African ornithology

by Robert J. Dowsett

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Two pre-occupied names in current use have come to light during revision of the African taxa for the next edition of Dickinson (2003).

CARDINAL WOODPECKER *Dendropicos fuscescens intermedius* Roberts, 1924: 83. Type locality Weenen (28°51'S, 30°05'E), KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Holotype in Ditsong National Museum of Natural History (formerly the Transvaal Museum, and hereafter abbreviated as TM).

This name is pre-occupied by the following, if the genus *Thripias* is merged with the earlier *Dendropicos* (as in Dickinson 2003): Bearded Woodpecker *D. namaquus intermedius* (C. H. B. Grant, 1915: 101), type locality Ugogo, Tanzania; holotype at the Natural History Museum, Tring (BMNH). In that case there is an alternative name: *D. fuscescens natalensis* Roberts, 1924: 84, type locality Red Hill (29°47'S, 31°02'E), KwaZulu-Natal coast, South Africa, holotype in TM. *D. f. natalensis* was treated as a synonym of *D. f. intermedius* by W. R. Tarboton in Hockey *et al.* (2005). However, it seems best for now to continue to recognise the genus *Thripias*, pending a complete study of the genera of African woodpeckers, for which the molecular samples of Benz *et al.* (2006) were incomplete.

FOREST CANARY *Crithagra scotops transvaalensis* (Roberts, 1940: 365). Type locality eastern Transvaal to Zoutpansberg, restricted to Woodbush (23°47'S, 30°04'E) (Skead 1960, Dowsett 2011), South Africa. Holotype in TM.

This name is pre-occupied by the following, regardless of whether one uses *Serinus* for these, or *Crithagra* (following Ryan *et al.* 2004): Streaky-headed Seedeater *C. gularis transvaalensis* (Roberts, 1913: 36); type locality Hennops River (25°51'S, 27°56'E), near Pretoria, South Africa; holotype in TM. The later name has been widely used as valid, in error, and both were included by W. R. J. Dean in Hockey *et al.* (2005). There is no other name available (sources examined including Sharpe 1888, Reichenow 1904, Sclater 1930, Roberts 1940, Rand 1968). The only name introduced since 1940 is *C. s. umbrosa* (Clancey, 1964: 184) from Knysna (34°03'S, 23°01'E) in the southern Cape, at the other extreme of the species' distribution. Hence a new name will be needed, and I propose:

Crithagra scotops kirbyi, nom. nov.

This replaces the pre-occupied *C. s. transvaalensis* (Roberts, 1940), nec *C. gularis transvaalensis* (Roberts, 1913). The new name commemorates the collector of the holotype, Frederick Vaughan-Kirby (1868–1945: 'Mfohloza', the native Zulu name by which he was widely known referring to the sound of his long khaki trousers moving through the grass), a game warden who made a valuable contribution to knowledge of the avifauna of south-eastern Africa.

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A proposed new genus of booted eagles (tribe Aquilini)

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Recent evidence from phylogenetic analysis that several long-accepted eagle genera are non-monophyletic, some of them paraphyletic, have realigned boundaries whilst also erecting groups that have yet to be accommodated in taxonomy. All of the above applies in *Aquila*. Sampling mitochondrial or both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA, four studies (Bunce *et al.* 2005, Helbig *et al.* 2005, Lerner & Mindell 2005, Haring *et al.* 2007) broke this traditional genus into well-defined clades the composition of which, within taxon sampling limits, is generally agreed. Up to three of these clades also absorb some or all of the content of other accepted genera.

We focus here on the spotted eagles: Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina* and their sister taxon Indian Spotted Eagle *A. hastata* whose species rank has been proposed from morphological differences (Parry *et al.* 2002) and genetics (Väli 2006). Taken together, the above analyses identified these three taxa as a clade apart, by Helbig *et al.* (2005) as isolated from the rest by the common ancestor of other *Aquila* species and *Hieraaetus* (Booted Eagle *H. pennatus* and allies), a step also indicated by Haring *et al.* (2007) although not figured in other published trees.

Especially as the studies that sampled them (Helbig *et al.* 2005, Lerner & Mindell 2005, Haring *et al.* 2007) shifted one or other of the large-bodied *Hieraaetus*, Bonelli's Eagle *H. fasciatus* and African Hawk-Eagle *H. spilogaster*, and also Cassin's (Hawk-) Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*, into another of the *Aquila* clades, a broadening of *Aquila* to cover all of the species involved could have become the recognised arrangement. We believe this ceased to be acceptable with inclusion in the spotted eagle clade by Bunce *et al.* (2005) of monotypic (Indo-Malayan) Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*, by Helbig *et al.* (2005) of monotypic (Afrotropical) Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*, and by Lerner & Mindell (2005) and Haring *et al.* (2007) in one or other of their published trees, of both: *Ictinaetus* shown by